

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE SATELLITE HOME VIEWERS ACT

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank you for allowing me to take a moment to discuss an issue that is very near and dear to many Montanans hearts—their satellite service. Many Montanans and others in rural America have been contacting us regarding the dispute over distant network satellite service between local broadcasters and satellite providers. I share the concerns that many Montanans may be left without network signals if we do not take appropriate action.

In a state as large as Montana, there are many areas that cannot receive a decent broadcast signal of local television stations. For many, the only recourse is to invest in satellite equipment and programming packages in order to receive television programming. Recently, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida (Case No. 96-3650-CIV-NESBITT) issued a preliminary injunction that requires the termination of network satellite service to over one million subscribers across the United States that fall within the "Grade B" contour.

The Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association stated that the Satellite Home Viewer Act (SHVA) provides that Americans who cannot receive an acceptable signal over-the-air from their local network affiliate are classified as "unserved household" and are therefore, eligible to receive network service via satellite. An "unserved household" is one that cannot receive a television signal of "Grade B" intensity (as defined by the FCC). Grade B is a technical measurement used by the FCC to determine predictive signal distribution for tower placement for the broadcasters.

Because the SHVA does not provide clear guidance on which households may lawfully receive network signals by satellite, and no straightforward testing mechanism exists to ascertain which households are "served," there is confusion in the marketplace. Unfortunately, this leaves millions of consumers caught in the middle. Local broadcasters in Montana have assured me of their willingness to work with Montanans who are determined to be "served households" by the FCC, but do not actually receive a quality broadcast signal by individually testing service and issuing waivers to allow them to continue receiving network signals via satellite. And they will be trying to get a waiver to seek a waiver from his or her local television broadcaster, and provided certain criteria are met, may ensure the continued delivery of network programming service via satellite. I have urged many Montanans who do not receive a signal to contact their individual broadcast stations for a waiver. I have heard from many Montanans that some local broadcasters have been will-

ing to work with them, and unfortunately some haven't.

However, there are some cases that there is a unfair burden on the local broadcasters for them to go to every household to prove if they receive a signal. But we must take action to correct this very concerning problem.

I appreciate that the Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. BILLY TAUZIN, has focused his efforts to come up with a legislative fix to address this matter. On February 25th, Representative TAUZIN introduced the Save our Satellites Act (H.R. 851) that seeks to save network television signals for consumers who will unfairly lose access to satellite-delivered network programming. I am an original cosponsor if this legislation and fully support its passage.

The Save our Satellites Act preserves the status quo for 90 days so that a more reliable method of determining who is eligible to receive network programming can be implemented. This is a good first step toward defusing this emergency situation for rural satellite consumers. I look forward to working with Mr. TAUZIN and other Members of Congress to find common sense solutions to this very important issue.

H.R. 474—FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced legislation, H.R. 474, to help local contractors compete for military construction projects. The purpose of H.R. 474 is to address concerns raised by various unions, contractors, and the State of Hawaii, that local companies are not getting a fair shot at competing for military construction contracts. The ability of out-of-state contractors to ignore state tax and employment laws have allowed them to avoid costs that local companies have to meet and thereby outbid our local companies.

The problem of out of state contractors dodging state tax and employment laws was documented at the Congressional hearing I held on August 5, 1995, in Hawaii. H.R. 474 incorporates many of the suggestions and proposals made at this hearing on ways to make the bidding process more equitable for local companies.

H.R. 474 requires contractors to obtain a state tax clearance in order to be an eligible bidder on military construction projects; it requires them to obtain a state tax clearance and certify compliance with state employment laws in order to receive the final project payment; allows a military agency to withhold payment in order to meet state tax obligations; and it requires a contractor that has won a bid to obtain a state license in the state in which the work is to be performed, if that state requires such a license.

Military construction work is an important part of Hawaii's economy. Not only will Hawaii's local companies benefit from this legislation, but all local companies across the nation will have a fair chance to compete for these projects that are worth millions of dollars.

By joining me in supporting H.R. 474 we can provide the enforcement needed to make sure all bidders play by the same rules. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING COMMON THREADS AWARD WINNERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in congratulate Muriel Smittcamp, Violet Jensen, Geneva Shannon, Jane Logoluso, and Mildred "Micki" Parker, the recipients of the Common Threads Award. This award is presented to women in agriculture who have made a remarkable contribution to their community through volunteer work and philanthropy.

Muriel Smittcamp, of Clovis, CA, began her career in agriculture, together with her husband Earl, in 1945, with the purchase of 200 acres. She has volunteered her time with many organizations including the Ranchero Guild of Valley Children's Hospital (V.C.H.), the Holiday Guild, and the Fresno State Bulldog Foundation. Muriel is also a California State University, Fresno Alumni member, contributor and worker, and donates her services to the Clovis Library, the American Cancer Society and 4-H.

Violet Jensen, of Fresno, CA, became a farmer's wife when she married Oliver Jensen in 1948. She has actively participated in all phases of farm management including tractor driving, tying vines and harvesting crops. She has been a member of the Farm Bureau for 50 years during which she has held several committee chairs. Violet has been active in Raisin Wives, La Tienda Guild for V.C.H. and Twilight Haven. She was very active with the Raisin Queen Pageant and the Farm Bureau Princess Pageant.

Jane Logoluso Bautista, of Madera, CA, joined her father's farming operation in 1992. Prior to that she had a 20 year career in the health care industry. She is currently responsible for government relations, personnel, labor relations and special projects. Jane is vice-chair of the California Apple Commission, trustee for U.S. Apple Association and is secretary of the Nisei Farmers' League. She volunteers for the American Cancer Society and has served on the Kingsview Mental Health Corp.

Geneva Shannon, of Visalia, CA, grew up on a farm in Waukena, Ca. She married Eric Shannon in 1980, and together they continued their farming interests. She was involved in 4-

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

H and Future Farmers of America in school, and continues to support these organizations. Geneva served as president of the Tulare Kings Chapter of California Women for Agriculture, and also on the State Board. She is active in the Farm Bureau, and represents agriculture in the classroom.

Mildred "Micki" Parker, of LeGrand, CA, taught at both Chowchilla and Merced High Schools. She was a sponsor of the American Field Service and advisor to Future Business Leaders of America. She and her husband Richard farmed almonds for many years. After her retirement from teaching, she actively participated in day-to-day farm operations. Micki has been active in the Merced area with the County Area Agency of Aging, Community Action Board, Women's Club and Farm Bureau. She is also a member of the Merced Chapter of California Women for Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Common Threads Award winners. These women have shown outstanding involvement, not only in agriculture, but in strengthening their respective communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these honorees a bright future and continued success.

CELEBRATING OUR AMERICAN HEROES

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I spent the recent district work period participating in celebratory events for African American History Month. I saluted the heroism of Eric Davis on the baseball diamond and in his fight against colon cancer, John Bryant of Operation Hope—our first non-profit investment banking organization, and Vernon J. Baker, a Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, and Bronze Star recipient for acts of valor in World War II.

Let me tell you a little about Vernon. Second Lieutenant Baker served in the Army and fought in World War II. On April 5–6, 1945, Second Lieutenant Baker destroyed enemy installations, personnel and equipment during his company's attack against a strongly entrenched enemy in mountainous terrain. When his company was stopped by the concentrated fire from several machine-gun emplacements, he crawled to one position and destroyed it, killing three German soldiers. Continuing forward, he attacked an enemy observation post and killed its two occupants. With the aid of one of his men, Second Lieutenant Baker attacked two more machine-gun nests, killing or wounding the four enemy soldiers occupying these positions. He then covered the evacuation of the wounded personnel of his company by occupying an exposed position and drawing enemy fire. On the following night, Second Lieutenant Baker voluntarily led a battalion advance through enemy mine fields and heavy fire toward the division objective.

Like Vernon, African Americans have played an integral role in defending American ideals since this country's origin. Their willingness to serve this country dates back to the Revolutionary War and their service as "privateers" in America's first merchant marine. They fought in the Battle of Concord, crossed the

Delaware River, and served in the Continental Army. Thousands served in the War of 1812, protected New Orleans when threatened in 1815, and fought with the Party of Lincoln to achieve emancipation. Almost 400,000 African Americans fought alongside white infantrymen in World War I, though they had to do so in segregated units and in the face of widespread misinformation that African Americans lacked the intellectual ability to serve their country. Today, almost 25% of our armed forces are African American.

We seldom hear of the acts of individual courage displayed by our African American vets. Yet, the simple act of signing up to serve—and facing bigotry, discrimination, and segregation head on—is at least as heroic as the act of serving this country. Even today, though, our history books lack real substance about the full contributions of soldiers like Vernon Baker to our military legacy. Recognizing their contribution, even if it takes African American History Month to prompt us, is the first step we must take.

Ultimately, the contribution of men like Vernon Baker should be remembered not as the contribution of an African American, but as the contribution of an American soldier. To quote Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, "Not color, not race, not religion, not pedigree of family, nor place of birth, not social standing, not size of his bank account, not his trade, nor her profession" makes one an American. "An American is one who loves justice and has a deep and abiding respect for the dignity of men and women. An American will fight for his freedom and that of his neighbor. An American will forgo ease and property and security in order to preserve for himself and for his children the rights of free men and women."

I proudly salute Vernon Baker, as well as Eric Davis and John Bryant, for their fight to preserve for all the rights of free men and women. I salute each, not because he or she is an African American, but because they are Americans, fighting for collective ideals and to make the world safe for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NADLER SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because, as the ongoing national dialogue at tests, the Social Security system is at a crossroads. The decisions we make this Congress will have aftershocks that will be felt well into the second half of the 21st century. Concern for our children and our children's children demand that those decisions be made carefully, seriously, and compassionately—keeping in mind Social Security's historic commitments.

Today, I am announcing the introduction of a comprehensive Social Security plan that will preserve the system while staying consistent with certain key values that have always provided the heart and soul of the nation's most popular social program: this plan does not raise the retirement age, it does not cut benefits, it does not raise tax rates, and it does not shift the risk onto individuals through individual private accounts funded by FICA taxes.

These are not academic considerations. They are the guiding principles of a program that has risen literally millions of human beings out of the wrenching grip of poverty—poverty that for so long was too often synonymous with old age or disability. For over half a century, they have been part of what defines Americans as a people.

President Clinton has already put forth an excellent framework to strengthen Social Security and Medicare and increase private savings, which keeps the system solvent until 2055. My plan builds on this firm foundation, but takes an extra step to completely eliminate the projected 2.19% actuarial deficit. According to the Social Security Actuaries, my plan brings the Social Security System into long-term actuarial balance for the foreseeable future—at least 75 years.

Briefly, here's how we do it. My plan implements the President's proposal to authorize the transfer of 62% of the projected budget surplus to the Social Security Trust Fund for a period of 15 years. It creates an Independent Social Security Investment Oversight Board that is authorized to hire private managers to invest a higher, though still prudent, portion of the Social Security surplus into index funds. And it increases—and then indexes—the cap on taxable wages, without removing the cap altogether. Currently, 93% of wage earners earn less than the cap, and will be totally unaffected. Under current law, less than 85% of all wages is subject to FICA contributions; this has slipped in recent years from the historic 90% due to the dramatic rise in disparity of wages. Raising the cap will restore the historic level, while affecting only the richest 7% of the population.

These steps will ensure the solvency of Social Security for at least 75 years, while ensuring the guaranteed benefits Social Security provides to seniors, individuals with disabilities, widows, widowers, and children. And—I can not say this often enough—it does so without raising the retirement age, without cutting benefits, without raising tax rates, and without shifting the risk onto the backs of individuals. This is meaningful, responsible legislation, and I intend to do my best to make sure my colleagues give it the hearing it deserves.

H.R. 475, MILITARY SPOUSES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 475, extending eligibility to use the military health care system and commissary stores to un-remarried former spouses of a member of the uniformed services in certain circumstances.

Current law provides health and commissary benefits to un-remarried former spouses who

meet the 20/20/20 rule—those who were married to military personnel for at least 20 years, whose spouse served in the military for at least 20 years, and whose marriage and spouse's military service overlapped for 20 years.

A problem that frequently arises is that many members who retire upon attaining 20 years of service were married a year or two after entering active duty. The overlap of their service and marriage is just short of 20 years. Thus regardless of the subsequent length of marriage the spouse can never meet the criteria requiring the 20 year overlap.

H.R. 475 would eliminate this current inequity by extending to un-remarried former spouse's medical care and commissary benefits if the member performed at least 20 years of service which is creditable in determining the member's eligibility for retired pay and the former spouse was married to the member for a period of at least 17 years during those years of service.

This inequity affects not only individuals in my district, but spouses in every district across the Nation. Since the original introduction of this legislation, I have received letters and phone calls from Massachusetts, Idaho, California, Ohio, Arizona, Florida, Washington, Maryland, Kansas, and Utah.

The Department of Defense has stated that by providing a more liberal entitlement to these individuals, we would "tax" the Department's resources thus increasing the budgetary requirements. Well, I say it is worth it when I read about a woman from Arizona who was married to her husband for 36 years, but because she married him 1 year after his initial enlistment, she missed the 20–20–20 rule by 11 months. These stories are tragic, and we can do something to remedy this unfairness.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 475.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY PANKRAT OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 563

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Cahaba Girl Scout Council in Birmingham, Alabama. She is Beverly Pankrat of Girl Scout Troop 563. She has been honored for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged fourteen through seventeen, or in grades ninth through twelfth.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than twenty thousand Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and carried out through

close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout Volunteer.

As a member of the Cahaba girl Scout Council, Beverly Pankrat began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award on November 9, 1997. She completed her project, Introduction to the Internet and Web Page Design, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO HERNANDO PINZON— RETIRING AFTER 15 YEARS OF CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, Today I rise to pay tribute to Hernando Pinzon, of Milwaukee, who will retire March 31, 1999, after 15 years of dedicated service on my District Office Staff.

Hernando was one of my very first hires when I was elected to Congress in a special election in the spring 1984. He has tirelessly served the residents of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District ever since.

Hernando has a sign on his Milwaukee office door which reads "I put veterans first. May I help you?" That statement sums up Hernando's dedication to the men and women who have served, or who are currently serving, in our nation's armed forces. As my constituent liaison for veterans and military issues, Hernando works daily to ensure that these individuals receive the benefits and honors they deserve. From handling insurance and retirement matters for military families, to obtaining well-deserved military medals for service men and women that were overdue many years ago, Hernando certainly puts veterans first.

As my District Office liaison for Hispanic issues, Hernando has attended countless Hispanic Chamber of Commerce meetings and events on Milwaukee's south side. He has truly been my "eyes and ears" at Hispanic events, bringing numerous issues to my attention and making it known to the community that I am ready and willing to help.

But Hernando's first priority is of course his family. His wife Maria and his two children Carla and Hernando are the real joys of his life. I know that he is looking forward to spending more time at home. In fact I understand that Maria has enough remodeling projects lined up to keep him busy around the house for quite some time!

Best wishes, Hernando, on your well-deserved retirement. We will miss your dedication, your patience, and your quiet humor. May you and your children enjoy the years to come by bicycling, hiking and fishing as you have enjoyed many Milwaukee summertimes in the past. God Bless.

SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT CLARIFICATION

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify some comments I made on

this floor last Thursday. Specifically, I spoke about the earnings limits now imposed by the Social Security laws. To clarify, there are two separate limits, one for individuals under the age of 65, and another for individuals between the age of 65 and 69. In 1999, those limits are \$9,600 and \$15,500, respectively. Individuals under the age of 65 with annual earnings of \$20,000 stand to lose \$5,200. Individuals between the ages of 65 and 69 with annual earnings of \$20,000 stand to lose \$1,500. In either event, individuals with critical expertise are encouraged not to work, to the detriment of all Americans.

JOHNSTON ATOLL

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 478, that requires the National Labor Relations Board to assert jurisdiction over Johnston Atoll.

Johnston Atoll is an unincorporated territory located about 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. Currently, the atoll is being used for weapons disposal where military and civilian employees work with hazardous materials and under potentially dangerous conditions to dispose of chemical weapons.

Civilian workers presently on the island cannot seek the protection of safe and fair working conditions as normally provided to workers in the United States because the civilian workers on Johnston Atoll are not under the jurisdiction of the NLRB.

This is a problem that is going on 9 years. In a petition before the NLRB in 1990, 185 employees of the civilian contractor were denied recognition as a bargaining unit by the Board because the Board declined to assert jurisdiction over the territory of Johnston Atoll.

My legislation recognizes this injustice and simply states that the Board cannot decline to assert jurisdiction over a labor dispute which occurs on Johnston Atoll.

Without my legislation, these workers are left without any recourse. There is no State or local agency to assist them, and the one entity established by Congress to protect them has declined to do so. This is a situation that we can easily remedy. By enacting H.R. 478, we provide the workers on Johnston Atoll the same protections as the rest of the Nation. I urge my colleagues to rectify this situation and support this bill.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ARRESTS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to decry the growing litany of repressive measures undertaken by the Government of Belarus against the opposition, especially against members of the opposition's Central Electoral Commission (CEC). Earlier this year, the legitimate Belarusian parliament—the 13th Supreme Soviet, disbanded

by president Alexander Lukashenka after the illegal constitutional referendum which extended his term of office by two years to 2001—set a date for the next presidential elections for May 16 and set up a Central Election Commission to conduct these elections. According to the 1994 constitution, which most of the international community recognizes as legitimate, Lukashenka's term expires in July. Lukashenka has rejected calls for a presidential election and is clearly attempting to neutralize democratic opposition to his authoritarian rule. The most egregious crackdown in recent weeks was the sentencing of CEC chairman Viktor Hanchar, to 10 days "administrative detention". Hanchar suffered some injuries when he was detained and treated roughly by police. He was not given access to his lawyer, Hari Pahanyayla, and his wife was not permitted to see him.

A few days earlier, on February 25, fifteen members of the CEC were arrested by police in a café where they were meeting and discussing reports from local election commissions. Special police did not have a warrant and prevented the videotaping of the arrest by Russian television. Five-day detentions or heavy fines were meted out to several CEC members, including Boris Gyunter, Anatoly Gurinovich, Sergei Obodovsky, Iosif Naumchik, Algimantas Dzygarchus, Alexander Koktysh, Nikolay Pohabov, Valery Sidorenko and Leonid Zakurdayev. Additionally, warnings have been issued to several members of regional opposition elections committees, such as Iosif Naumchik in Vitebsk and Sergei Abadowski in Mogilev. According to Radio Liberty, in Zhodzina, Miensk region, local authorities have begun intimidating people who joined or elected opposition regional election commissions. In Gomel, several opposition activists have been summoned and questioned about their role in the organization of the May presidential elections scheduled by the opposition. Police had seized leaflets about these elections at the office of the Gomel branch of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee.

The repression of the opposition's elections committees is part of a longstanding pattern of Lukashenka's assault on democratic institutions and his campaign to stifle dissent in Belarus. On February 14, 20 students were arrested by police in Miensk for violating street demonstration laws. Among them, Yevgeny Skochko was sentenced to 10 days in jail, Victor Antonov to 5 days in jail, and Kazimir Kuchun and Ilya Banel were fined. Other opposition activists in Gomel and Borisov have been tried for unsanctioned demonstrations over the last few months. Two young workers in Gomel, for instance, were sentenced to 3 days administrative detention for holding an unsanctioned march. According to Reuters, the men were returning from a disco late in the evening and waving banners, which they were bringing home to wash.

Earlier in the month, on February 5, members of the human rights movement Charter '97 were attacked and beaten in Miensk by members of the fascist Russian National Unity party. Andrei Sannikov, the Charter's international coordinator and former deputy foreign minister of Belarus was beaten unconscious. According to the International League for Human Rights a few days later, President Lukashenka trivialized the incident on Belarusian television, saying: "They say that

some fascists have appeared in Miensk and have beaten somebody up. Do you know who they have beaten? Other fascists." On February 27, several thousand marchers participated in a peaceful anti-fascist demonstration in Miensk. Organizers of the demonstration, Ales Bilyatsky who was sentenced to 10 days administrative detention and Oleg Volchek who was given a stiff fine, were cited for committing administrative offenses.

In late January, Lukashenka signed a decree ordering political parties, public organizations and trade unions to re-register during the period February 1 and July 1. The re-registration process includes a variety of onerous stipulations which would have the effect of weakening the NGOs and political parties. On February 17, the Lukashenka-controlled State Press Committee threatened six independent newspapers with closure if they continued to publish information about the opposition's presidential election plans in May, charging them with "calling for the seizure of power in Belarus." On March 2, police searched the offices of one of the six independent newspapers, "Pahonya" in Hrodno, confiscating political cartoons and letters from readers.

Clearly, political tensions are increasing in Belarus, and the divide between the authoritarian president and the democratic opposition is widening. Mr. Lukashenka and his minions should cease and desist their campaign to harass journalists, to drain and demoralize individuals and organizations in the opposition through administrative fines and detentions, and to forcefully squelch the right to the freedoms of expression and of assembly. Continued harassment of the opposition will only aggravate the current constitutional crisis in Belarus and most certainly will not serve to promote reconciliation between the government and opposition. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the international community continue to speak out on behalf of those whose rights are violated, and that we continue to support the restoration of democracy and rule of law in Belarus.

TRIBUTE TO THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. "PHAON"

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the officer and crew of the U.S.S. *Phaon*, and their sister ships within the Mobile Service Squadrons. Although often overlooked, their contribution to the War in the Pacific was central to U.S. and allied success in that theater.

A close reading of history will show that America's naval strategy in the Pacific theater, which called for the ability to maintain continuous operations at extreme distances from American port facilities, was in a very real sense made possible through the efforts and sacrifice of the Navy's logistics repair squadrons.

Japan's wartime plans envisioned an active defense across the periphery of its sphere of control, thus denying the United States the bases from which to launch and support offensive operations. Their leadership never prepared for the likelihood that their own forces, operating at extended distances from home

port, would be forced to fight against an American navy that would develop and refine the ability to conduct nearly continuous offensive operations. Under Admirals Halsey and Spruance, the Japanese would commit to battle at one point and then find themselves overextended, or "whipsawed," as American forces struck elsewhere. "Hit 'em where they ain't."

Underpinning this effort, and indeed making much of America's success in the Pacific possible, were the essential contributions made by the Navy's mobile Service Squadrons, which provided at-sea battle damage repair in order to return vessels to combat duty as quickly as possible. The *Phaon*, a battle damage repair ship within Mobile Service Squadron Ten, and her sister ships, materially contributed to fleet support at Tawara, Kwayalein, Eniwetok, Saipan and Tinian. In the words of historian Eric Larrabee, "[t]he fleet had become truly free of its landbound bases."

While much glory is rightly given to the front-line combatants, it is important that we should also recognize the contributions and the sacrifice of our combat support personnel who made ultimate victory possible.

HONORING THE LATE ALEX A. HAUGHT, FEBRUARY 17, 1964–MARCH 3, 1999—REMEMBERING HIS LIFE, SERVICE, AND FRIENDSHIP

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to remember our friend, Alex Haught, for there is so much to remember.

I remember when I hired Alex. I already knew a lot about him, his reputation preceded him: law degree, fund-raiser, a great people person, he knew the issues, he was vastly experienced with an excellent political network. And, based on the things I knew about Alex, I hired him.

But those are not the things I remember the most.

I remember how likable he was. He was a great listener. He possessed a gentle sweetness in his character. He genuinely cared about people and had friends in every walk of life. I remember that Alex loved to hunt and fish. When I took him fishing, he caught the biggest fish. He loved his dogs, Truman and Scout, he loved his old Bronco, and the outdoors. I remember Alex as a country boy working in big cities.

I remember his infectious laugh, his loyalty, his compassionate and easygoing manner and his patience. Alex was very unselfish. He was funny. He was tough. He was sensitive.

His tastes were simple. Alex loved music and sports. Most of all, Alex loved his family and his friends.

I trusted, respected and counted on Alex Haught. I loved Alex. As did people in the White House. So did people in White House, Tennessee.

I remember my great faith in Alex Haught—such faith that I placed a large responsibility for my own political future directly on his shoulders, because you could place that kind of faith in Alex. He accomplished more in a

brief life than most people could in several lifetimes, and he had a lot more to give.

I will miss my friend Alex Haught deeply and I will always remember him.

I will remember the sense of calm assuredness that Alex imparted every day, over and over. He believed in me and he believed in each of you, even when we disappointed him. I will remember Alex's comfort dealing in the highest circles of power and his discomfort and power's pretentious trappings. I will remember his approach to solving problems and how he dealt with people. I will remember how Alex built bridges.

Most important of all, I will always remember how Alex, even on the busiest day, stopped to smell the roses. Politics is a difficult and demanding profession. Most days we race from one meeting to the next. You take one call while two are on hold and can work with someone for years without learning anything significant about them as a person.

But not Alex. He didn't walk up to your desk, state his business and leave. Alex sat in the chair and talked about life for a while first. He had a rare ability that made you want to tell him your deepest secrets. He would listen and he would listen some more. And, there was always a hint of humor even in the darkest hour. Alex loved life. And somehow, being around Alex always made you enjoy life more too.

The clock might be ticking on a critical vote in history, but it was never so important that Alex couldn't stop to ask about the latest on the University of Tennessee Volunteers football team. A deadline might be imminent, but not so pressing Alex couldn't share a joke, or a quick burger, or take your phone call.

Tennessee has lost a true leader. Our Nation has lost a bright young mind full of ideas and possibilities. And, I have lost a friend.

Alex Haught's legacy is stamped on our political system and in our individual hearts.

I miss him deeply. And Alex, I will always, always remember.

TRIBUTE TO THE MANSFIELD LADY TIGERS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today in praise of a remarkable group of student athletes, the Lady Tigers of Mansfield High School. This past weekend, the Lady Tigers won Mansfield's first-ever state championship in any sport by beating Corpus Christi Carroll to become Texas state champions in girls basketball.

Mr. Speaker, I just returned this morning from my district and I can tell you that the girls of Mansfield High have spread Tiger-fever throughout North Texas. Mansfield is a town with just one high school and the local school district is the largest employer, so it is expected that the Lady Tigers would be the talk of Mansfield.

But communities throughout North Texas have rallied behind the Lady Tigers, and the media in Dallas and Fort Worth have been filled with stories of the Mansfield girls toppling opponents from bigger schools. In fact, on their route to the state finals, the Lady Tigers

defeated the team previously ranked number one in the entire country.

Congratulations to Mansfield Superintendent Vernon Newsom, Lady Tiger coach Samantha Morrow, and most of all to the mighty Mansfield Lady Tiger student athletes. Your hard work and dedication throughout this season have been an inspiration to everyone in North Texas. You have our gratitude for an inspiring and exciting season. Hopefully this will be the first of many trips to Austin for the Mansfield Lady Tigers.

MARY CURTIS ARANHA, MARYLAND'S 1999 MOTHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Maryland's 1999 Mother of the Year Mary Curtis Aranha. She will represent Maryland at the national convention of American Mothers, Inc. (AMI) in Honolulu, Hawaii, on April 27, 1999, where a national Mother of the Year will be selected—a practice that began in 1935 with Sara Delano Roosevelt.

A resident of Capitol Heights, MD and my constituent, she has been cited by Governor Parris Glendening for her devotion to her family as well as her tireless efforts on behalf of the education and moral development of other children and families throughout Maryland. As Principal of Benjamin Foulois Traditional Academy, she introduced a program of character education and mother mentoring that has inspired emulation in many Maryland communities and has received national recognition. She now leads Maryland's Office of Character Education where she combines both her professional and volunteer efforts on behalf of children and families.

AMI, founded in 1933, the official sponsor of Mothers Day, is the sponsor of the Mother-of-the-Year program where outstanding mothers from all walks of life and ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds in America's 50 states and the District of Columbia are honored as representative of the "best in the state". The organization which has chapters in local communities throughout America provides outreach programs that enhance the growth and well-being of families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in cheering Mary Curtis Aranha, Maryland's 1999 Mother of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 932, THE WORK FOR REAL WAGES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a bill that I recently introduced, H.R. 932—the Work for Real Wages Act. H.R. 932 requires that welfare recipients who perform unpaid work as a condition of receiving benefits be credited with wages for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit [EIC].

It is extremely unfair to require work, not pay any wages for that work, and credit nothing toward Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other wage-based benefits programs.

But this is exactly what is currently allowed under the new welfare reform law. States are able to enact workfare programs in which welfare recipients are forced to work off their welfare benefit, rather than receiving real wages.

My bill corrects this problem by crediting the hours worked without direct compensation as though minimum wage were paid for the purpose of claiming earned income tax credits.

If work is a virtue, then all work should be treated the same.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 932, the Work for Real Wages Act.

CELEBRATING WTOP'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Washington, D.C.'s most dependable and objective sources of news, WTOP Radio, which celebrates its 30th Anniversary today.

WTOP has always been a prime source of information on major news events. Their veteran news staff has covered historical events such as the Watergate scandal, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War and the recent impeachment and Senate trial of President Clinton.

Throughout all of these turbulent times, WTOP has presented comprehensive, up to the minute coverage of events. In an era when some news outlets have diminished the amount of coverage devoted to political activity, WTOP remains committed to their format of bringing the latest developments on Capitol Hill to their listening audience. This, however, would not be possible without Dave McConnell, WTOP's Congressional correspondent.

Dave McConnell has been working with WTOP since 1965 and has been doing a daily broadcast called, "Today on the Hill" since 1981. With this show, Dave talks directly to members about issues and developments that are unfolding in Congress. I have had the privilege of working with Dave for almost twenty years. A native of Washington, D.C., he attended the University of Maryland and went on to cover Prince George's County and Maryland politics when I was the President of the State Senate. I have always found Dave to be a fair, dedicated and knowledgeable reporter. He does a great service to the people who depend on WTOP for their news.

WTOP serves a real need of the community, not only providing important political news, but also traffic, weather and sports. I know that all my colleagues join me to commend WTOP on 30 years of dedicated service to the community and wish them even greater success in the next 30 years.

DISASTER MITIGATION AND COST REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 707) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes:

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 707, "The Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 1999" is a good bill for three reasons. First, this legislation will provide funding to a newly created pre-disaster mitigation program, which is something that has been needed for quite sometime. Second, this legislation will increase the authorization for post-mitigation funding by 33 percent. Third, H.R. 707 places the needs of victims ahead of bureaucratic red tape.

When a disaster occurs, non-profit organizations should be given the ability to move as fast as possible to help restore vital services to those in need. These organizations, what are known as "lifeline facilities," provide critical services such as: communications power, drinking water, water treatment, and emergency medical care to communities in need. In the wake of a disaster, it is imperative that these facilities receive the aid necessary to recover without delay, so they can help others that might be suffering. It does not make sense to impose any additional paperwork burden on these organizations in the hours or days after a disaster has occurred.

I am pleased that the legislation includes an amendment I offered in Committee to allow these critical care facilities to be put back into service as soon as possible in order to prevent additional loss of life or property.

Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of cutting unnecessary federal spending. However, if even one life may be threatened because of delay, it is not worth it.

I commend my colleague and Subcommittee Chairwoman TILLIE FOWLER for her efforts.

H.R. 707 is a good bill and one that I ask every member to support.

CONGRATULATING WTOP RADIO FOR THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS COVERAGE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize and celebrate a Washington establishment. Today marks the thirtieth anniversary of WTOP radio's commitment to an all-news format here in the nation's capital. Since 1969, WTOP has been Washington's only all-news radio station, and a primary source of information on major news events.

For thirty years, WTOP has been a leader in the reporting of international, national, and

local news. WTOP has consistently provided comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news coverage. The frequent weather and traffic reports have kept Washington informed and on time. In addition to reporting the news, I am proud that WTOP has shown a true community commitment. The station dependably reports and produces public service announcements and school closings. In addition, WTOP has consistently helped to raise funds with various charity organizations.

Several national broadcasting figures started their careers at WTOP, including Connie Chung, Warner Wolf, Roger Mudd, and Sam Donaldson. During my service in Congress, I have had the pleasure to work with another Washington institution, WTOP's long-term Capitol Hill Correspondent Dave McConnell.

WTOP continues to serve more than just Washington. I am pleased that WTOP has provided my district in Montgomery County, Maryland with around-the-clock news coverage for these thirty years. WTOP's current AM and FM broadcast signals reach listeners from Baltimore to Richmond, and from the Chesapeake Bay to the Shenandoah Valley.

I extend my warmest congratulations to WTOP radio on this special anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD PATZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Edward Patz. On March 27, 1999, Mr. Patz, along with his friends and family, will celebrate his retirement from the Pipefitter's Local Union 597. This reception will take place at the Villa Cesare in Schererville on March 27, 1999.

Ed Patz has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of union members and the community of Northwest Indiana, as well as the entire state.

Mr. Patz's distinguished career in the labor movement has made his community and nation a better place in which to work and live. For more than forty years, Mr. Patz has served as an important figure in Local #597. He has held several positions throughout his tenure, but none as important as Business Agent, a position from which he retired on January 1, 1999.

Mr. Patz began his involvement with Local Union 597 in 1956, through his Pipefitter Apprenticeship with the Robert Gordon Corporation. Ed Patz was the top apprentice in the state of Indiana and won the state apprenticeship contest on November 23, 1960. In the same year, Mr. Patz graduated from the apprenticeship program and attained the rank of a journeyman. In 1983, Mr. Patz was elected to the Pipefitter's Local Union 597 executive board, where he served a three-year term. Mr. Patz was elected to the position of Business Agent in June of 1986, where he remained until his retirement in January 1999. Ed Patz served three consecutive two-year terms as Secretary-Treasurer for the Northwest Indiana Building Trades Council, and was involved as a committee chairman and/or member of numerous committees associated with the Build-

ing Trades Council. Ed Patz has devoted his career toward the expansion of labor ideals and fair standards for all working people.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ed Patz. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His work in the labor movement provided union workers in Northwest Indiana opportunities they might not have otherwise had. Mr. Patz's leadership kept the region's labor force strong and helped keep America working. Those in the movement will surely miss Mr. Patz's dedication and sincerity. I sincerely wish Ed Patz a long, happy, and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ELENA PEISER HANRAHAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the celebration on her 70th birthday on Saturday, March 13, 1999.

Elena is a woman of many accomplishments. She has been a leader in her Bayside community for many years and she has volunteered countless hours for many different causes.

Elena has served her parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament as President of the Rosary Society. She has also been an active member of the National Council of Catholic Women. She served as President of the Brooklyn Diocesan branch of the NCCW, and was appointed executive director of the Northeast region. She currently is the NCCW representative to the United Nations.

Elena was the Director of Volunteers at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for 12 years. While there, she expanded the network to include handicapped volunteers as well as senior citizens and teens.

Currently, Elena is the community relations director for her local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. She still maintains her busy schedule at her church where she helps to produce the monthly newsletter, organizes a pre-school group called "Mommy and Me," and lectures regularly at Mass.

Elena has accomplished all of this while devoting herself to her family of 8 children, 4 stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren. She is an energetic and motivated citizen who shows no sign of slowing down as she enters her eighth decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my best wishes and congratulations to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the occasion of her 70th birthday, and wishing her many more years of active service to her family and to her community.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 22

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed to read on the front page of The Washington Post on February 11, 1999 the headline

"Chinese Missiles Menace Taiwan." Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have fought hard to ensure the safety of Taiwan, and this report and others are evidence that Congress must be vigilant in reinforcing its commitment to this tiny island state.

According to a Pentagon report, Beijing now has 150–200 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan and has plans to increase that number to 650. It is clear that this threat is a challenge to Taiwan's increased democracy and independence—as evidenced most recently by its successful elections.

We all remember the last time this happened. In March, 1996, China reacted to Taiwan's imminent first democratic presidential elections by testing missiles in the waters just miles off the coast of Taiwan's largest harbor, Kaohsiung. The United States responded swiftly and effectively, by dispatching aircraft carriers to the Taiwan Straits to show the Chinese government our strong opposition to its actions.

Our response in 1996 was based on the provisions of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulated that the United States consider "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . of grave concern to the United States." Our response now should be based on this same principle.

1999 marks the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act—the cornerstone of U.S. commitment to Taiwan's safety and security. We must commemorate this anniversary by sending a clear message to Beijing that their acts of aggression and intimidation against Taiwan need to cease. Beijing must understand that, as we have in the past, we will come to the aid of Taiwan in case of a Chinese threat.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 22 which concludes that "the United States should help Taiwan defend itself in case of threats or a military attack by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan." This resolution repeats the provisions of one I introduced in 1997, which was passed by the House of Representatives later that year.

Mr. Speaker, let us pass H. Con. Res. 22 now, and let us send a strong message to Beijing that we will not stand idly by while our friends on Taiwan are bullied into submission by Chinese military might.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 931

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill important to all workers, H.R. 931.

We no longer live in an era of one-company careers. Workers today change jobs with frequency. Oftentimes, these job changes are because of the worker's own choosing, however, just as often, they are not. In this era of downsizing and mergers, no one is safe from unemployment. Fortunately, Congress established the unemployment compensation system to provide temporary financial relief to workers who have lost their jobs. And it is a good thing it did. Last year, unemployment compensation was estimated to have helped 8.6 million workers who lost their jobs.

H.R. 931 takes this important program and goes a step further to improve it. It allows individuals who left their jobs because of sexual harassment or the loss of child care to collect unemployment compensation.

Sexual harassment is a widespread phenomenon. 42% of women and 15% of men have encountered some sort of sexual harassment in occupational settings. Despite the pervasive nature of this problem, only 1%–7% of victims file formal complaints. Oftentimes, sexual harassment results in low productivity and absenteeism. Although some victims may escape the problem simply by leaving their jobs, this option is not available for everyone. Unless one has money saved or another job lined up, it is hard to give up a steady pay check.

My bill addresses this economic obstacle by giving victims of sexual harassment the option to leave their jobs and to collect unemployment compensation if they can show "facts sufficient to establish a prima facie case" that they were victimized by sexual harassment.

In addition, H.R. 931 helps workers who leave employment because of the loss of child care by allowing them to collect unemployment compensation.

The need for child care is a daily reality for millions of America's working families. As real wages have stagnated over the last decade, many families have adapted by having two wage earners per family. Also, over this same period, the number of children living in mother-only families has increased. As a result, more women with children are working. In 1997, 65% of women with children under the age of 6 were working compared to only 39% in 1975. Child care is critical for these millions of working families.

If a working parent loses this child care, he or she has little choice but to stop working until new child care can be found. H.R. 931 would help those parents by allowing them to collect unemployment compensation if they left their jobs because of the loss of adequate child care for a dependent child under the age of 12.

The loss of child care places a tremendous strain on working parents. Although H.R. 931 does not relieve the stress over this loss, it does ease the financial strain placed on parents in this situation.

I am proud to introduce H.R. 931 and I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of this bill. We must seize the opportunity to help workers trapped in these unfortunate situations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY A. GOMEZ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual and my high school football coach, Henry Gomez. Coach Gomez passed away on January 13th after leading a long and distinguished life of service to his community and commitment to the enrichment of young minds.

Henry Gomez devoted his professional and private life to serving his home state of Texas.

After graduating from Jeff Davis High School in Houston, he entered the Navy to bravely fight for his country during World War II, where he served in the Seabees as a special undersea diver in the Philippine Islands.

After the War, he returned to his hometown of Houston to continue his education at the University of Houston. Henry was an outstanding athlete on the first University of Houston football team. His love of the game was so great that, upon graduation in 1948, he began coaching the Aldine School District football team. His true enjoyment of working with young players and enthusiasm for football soon made him a respected figure at the school. After a 7-year tenure at Aldine, Henry moved to Jackson Jr. High and later to our alma mater, Jeff Davis High School.

It was during his 14-year career at Jeff Davis High School that I came to know Coach Gomez. While a young player on his teams, I learned the true importance of teamwork and cooperation that remains with me today. At Jeff Davis, his influence reached beyond the football field as he worked as counselor and ultimately Vice Principal of the school. He was a leader who drew much admiration from his students, players and colleagues.

Hoping to expand his involvement with the young people of his community, Mr. Gomez transferred to James Dady Middle School where he began another 14-year career as Assistant Principal. He was lovingly known during his tenure as the "Sheriff of Dady," whose firm yet kind demeanor and dedication to the enrichment of young minds drew respect and love from all who knew him.

Upon retirement from his long career in education, Henry Gomez maintained close ties with the Texas school system, where he was involved in both the Houston and Pasadena Area Retired Teacher's Association.

The death of Henry Gomez is a blow to all who loved and respected him. His years of working with students and his devotion to his community touched a countless number of lives, including my own. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him will never forget his kind spirit, his leadership in the community, and his dedication to coaching and teaching. He has left a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Henry Gomez. Those of us fortunate enough to have known him are truly blessed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE "MEDICAL INNOVATION TAX CREDIT"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman SANDER LEVIN and I have introduced legislation, H.R.—that will establish a new "Medical Innovation Tax Credit." Last year, we introduced similar legislation with strong, bipartisan support. This bill is designed to provide incentives for companies to utilize our Nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals to conduct important clinical testing research. These institutions have led the world on the development of medical advances, including cures for small pox, treatments for diabetes, cancer, and leukemia as well as the

irradiation of polio. It is important that we make every effort to insure that American teaching hospitals and medical schools remain leaders in the fight against disease.

Medical schools and teaching hospitals are the training grounds for our nation's health care professionals. They are centers for development of innovative medical technologies and treatments, as well as the backbone for innovation in American medicine. They are able to develop life saving drugs, medical devices and surgical techniques due to their unique position to link research, medical training and patient care. Unfortunately, medical schools and teaching hospitals face serious financial challenges due to profound changes in the health care marketplace. As funding shrinks, so does the vital, life saving medical research they perform.

The Medical Innovation Tax Credit is a response to this alarming decline in utilization of the Country's superior medical facilities for clinical trials. Under the credit, companies would be eligible for an incremental 20% tax credit for expenditures on human clinical trials performed by: (1) non-profit or public medical schools; (2) teaching hospitals owned by or affiliated with an institution of higher learning; (3) a medical research organization affiliated with a medical school or teaching hospital; or (4) non-profit research hospitals that are designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. The credit requires that research be performed in the United States, encouraging companies to retain and expand their clinical research projects, rather than relocating such activities abroad.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in the establishment of the Medical Innovation Tax Credit. A tax credit that is truly a "credit for life."

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL GANZ AND
BEVERLEE KAUFMAN FOR THEIR
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel M. Ganz and Beverlee Kaufman, who will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their wedding on March 27, 1999. It is fitting that they are celebrating this anniversary with their two children (David and Sandy), their friends, and the rest of their family.

For many years, Beverlee and Danny Ganz lived in Rockville Centre, Long Island, where they raised their family and were active in community affairs. Dan, in particular, was very involved with the Recreation Department as a volunteer working with both table-tennis and court-tennis.

They sent their children to the Rockville Centre public school system. David then went off to Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., and Sandy to Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

David became a lawyer, practicing in New York City and New Jersey, later served as the volunteer president of the American Numismatic Association, and currently presides as

the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. He has just written his 14th book-length work.

Sandy went on to earn a Masters degree in physical therapy, and to find employment as the Associate Director of Physical Therapy at the Manhattan Hospital for Special Therapy. She then became director for the Amsterdam Nursing Home division, and has authored several works on physical therapy treatments.

I met Dan and Bev at David's inauguration as Mayor this past January 1st, and I am glad to know such a devoted couple, who are also two remarkable individuals.

It is rare today that any couple can spend a half century in wedded bliss, but they are two people who have managed it. Dan turns 80 this October and Bev will be 75 in just a few weeks, but they are both still active in their new home in Boca Raton, Florida, playing tennis, golf, and exploring the Internet.

Recently, Dan, who is a World War II veteran with 26 missions in the Triangle "A" squadron in England, used the Internet to reunite with his Captain and navigator, whom he had not seen in 54 years. Last year, he met up with the remainder of his crew. Some of his combat photos, including the Bridge of the Remagen, were included in the wartime exhibit shown at the National Archives in Washington.

He has not stopped giving to his community. In Boca Raton, he has been performing magic—which he has done professionally for nearly 70 years—at hospitals for youngsters with terminal diseases such as AIDS, and for seniors. Bev is now frequently his assistant at these events.

They have three grandchildren (Scott, Elyse, and Pam), daughter-in-law Kathy, and a host of friends and relatives who are joining them and their children in celebration of their first 50 years of marriage. I wish them well and congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
UNLOCKING AVIATION TRUST
FUND

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, unlocking the Aviation Trust Fund is a tax fairness issue. Republicans should unanimously support this effort, because it restores honesty to the budget process. A part of the budget surplus comes from aviation user fees that the traveling public pays on a promise from Congress to ensure a safe and efficient transportation system. In ten years, under current aviation investment patterns, it will be neither safe nor efficient.

Moreover, investment in assets for America is a Republican concept and sound transportation infrastructure is the foundation of commerce and our economy. We can credit Theodore Roosevelt with the vision to build the Panama Canal, and Dwight Eisenhower for the Interstate Highway System. Republicans have historically been the party of builders and we should continue to advocate sound federal programs that enrich our nation and our quality of life.

I am submitting for the record a letter from Paul Weyrich, National Chairman of the Coali-

tion for Americans, supporting our efforts to unlock the Aviation Trust Fund and make much-needed investment in our airports and air traffic control system.

Let it not be under our watch that the nation's aviation system falls into such disrepair that Americans are imperiled when they take to the skies. I urge my conservative colleagues to support protecting the Aviation Trust Fund by cosponsoring H.R. 111, the "Truth in Budgeting Act," and supporting a Budget Resolution that reflects this critical priority.

COALITIONS FOR AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 8, 1999.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I am writing to congratulate you for introducing AIR-21, a bill to ensure adequate funding for the national air transportation system. Your proposal to require that federal aviation user taxes be used for their intended purposes—particularly development of airports and the air traffic system—is commendable. The needs of the aviation system are so massive that all available funds must be spent. The health of our economy depends to a very significant extent on a vibrant air transportation system.

I also applaud your inclusion in AIR-21 of a provision to lift the federally imposed restriction on the local airport funding option known as the passenger facility charge (PFC). As I stated in my letter of February 8, whenever there is an opportunity for the federal government to provide more autonomy to local governments, it should do so. Your bill does that. While it would be preferable to remove the PFC cap entirely, easing the federal restriction on local government funding prerogatives by doubling the amount of funds that airports can raise through this means is a constructive step. I urge you to continue to pursue the goal of eliminating the federal cap on PFC's, but in the meantime, I support the provision in your bill. I urge your colleagues in the House and Senate to support it as well.

It is also critical to ensure that airports have the ability to spend the PFC to meet the needs that exist at their particular facilities. For some airports, the needs are greatest on the airside—runways, taxiways, and aprons. At other airports, gates and related facilities throughout the terminal are needed to expand capacity or enhance competition. At still other airports, groundside access is the biggest problem. Given that PFCs are collected from the passenger, any project that makes the passenger's trip to or through the airport more efficient and less susceptible to congestion and delays—whether airside, in the terminal, or groundside—should be allowed.

I know that you are particularly concerned about protecting the interests of passengers. Ensuring that airports have the flexibility to use PFCs to fund projects that ease the burdens encountered by the traveling public any where at the airport will certainly be in the passengers' interest.

Again, I applaud your commitment to promote the development of the national air transportation system, for the benefit of our national and regional economies and the passengers and shippers who use the system.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WEYRICH,
National Chairman.

SUNRAYCE 99

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sponsor the House version of the resolution that will permit the organizers of Sunrayce 99 to sponsor a public event, with solar-powered cars, on the Capitol Grounds on June 20, 1999, or on such other dates as the speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, to conduct opening ceremonies for Sunrayce 99. Senator ALLARD has introduced the Senate version (S. Con. Res. 13).

As the Chairman and co-founder of the House Renewable Energy Caucus I appreciate the innovation necessary to identify and utilize alternative forms of energy. As we move into the 20th Century, one of the critical environmental challenges facing us is the need to discover the possibilities of sustainable energy development, so that our children, and their families will be able to enjoy the clean air and environment that is so important to the health of our nation.

From June 20 to 29, 1999, the world will watch as up to 40 teams participate in Sunrayce 99 and demonstrate good-spirited competition and innovation at its best. The teams will race through five states, from the start in Washington, DC, to the finish at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, FL in the nation's premier solar powered vehicle event.

Sunrayce 99 showcases the imagination, ingenuity and teamwork of graduate and undergraduate teams from North America in the development of highly efficient vehicles powered solely by a viable, renewable and sustainable energy source—the sun. I am proud to note that the University of Arizona has registered a team. General Motors, Electronic Data Systems along with the U.S. Department of Energy are the sponsors of this biennial inter-collegiate competition.

The top three finishing teams will receive trophies and cash awards. Scholarship achievement awards will also be granted for technical innovation, engineering excellence, artistic talents, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Sunrayce 99 not only demonstrates the possibilities of sustainable energy development, but also the importance of public/private partnerships. This approach will allow companies to work hand in hand with government in successfully tackling the environmental challenges ahead. I applaud the participants of Sunrayce 99—sponsors, applicants, universities, and administrators—for making innovation a reality.

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee's 24th Annual St. Patrick's

Day Parade, the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York State.

This parade is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us in New York City to celebrate and pay tribute to Irish culture.

This year's honorees represent the best of what our City's political, educational and religious leaders have to offer.

Grand Marshal Geraldine D. Chapey is a member of the New York State Board of Regents and is the past President of Community School Board 27. Fellow Grand Marshal Chief Bernard (Buddy) Sullivan is the founder of the "New York Sanitation, Emerald Society, Pipe and Drum Band" and an active member of the New York City Department of Sanitation Emerald Society.

Honorary Grand Marshal Monsignor Martin T. Geraghty has served as the pastor of St. Francis de Sales parish since 1988. Fellow Honorary Grand Marshal Janet Timlin Fash is the president of the Rockaway Action Committee and works as a media teacher for Community School District 27.

The Parade's seven Deputy Grand Marshals, Harold Rochelle, J.P. Farrell, Frances Sheehan, William W. Whelan, Margaret Clarke Keating, Ann Barbera and Senator A. Waldon, Jr. have each devoted themselves to making the Rockaways a better place to live by helping their friends and neighbors regardless of the circumstances.

Parade Founder and Chairman James Conway Sullivan and Vice Chairman Michael A. Benn have consistently been recognized for their efforts at bringing together New York's Irish-American community. Through their dedicated efforts, they have helped to improve my constituents quality of life.

Each of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact with. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee.

WTOP RADIO'S 30 YEARS OF NEWS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th anniversary for WTOP Radio as an all-news station in Washington.

Since 1969, WTOP has been a prime source of information on major news events. From Watergate to the House impeachment and Senate trial of President Clinton, WTOP has led the way in providing up-to-the-minute news to area residents.

From the turmoil of the late Vietnam era through the continuing disruption in the Middle East, WTOP has presented comprehensive, accurate, and timely news coverage.

Traffic, weather, and sports are part of the news cycle as well, and all are featured in WTOP's extensive reporting.

Congressional activity is a major source of news on WTOP, and Congressional Correspondent Dave McConnell is a well-known and well-respected presence who reports daily on his Today on the Hill broadcasts, often talking directly to members about issues and de-

velopments. His is clearly the most professional and reliable source of Capitol Hill news available to the Washington area—even for us members.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing WTOP's valuable contribution to the greater Washington area over the last 30 years, and in my hope that the station will continue to provide us with around-the-clock news for many years to come.

SPEECH OF RON RANKIN

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, it is clear through the writings of our Founding Fathers that the freedom of religion and a belief in God was essential to the prosperity of this great nation.

The Declaration of Independence framed our country's political and legal systems and a strong reliance and recognition of God because it acknowledged that we "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . .". Furthermore, Article VI of the Constitution states, ". . . but no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." Additionally, the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from the "establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Ron Rankin, a Kootenai County Commissioner from Ceour d' Alene, Idaho delivered a powerful speech embodying these principles on November 28, 1998. I urge all my colleagues to read Mr. Rankin's words to see how much we need God's guidance in today's world:

Our prisons are full. Our jails are full. Crime is rampant in our streets. Our children's minds are corrupted by the media and their bodies by drugs. The cost of criminal justice is sapping our tax dollars to the extent that we are using funds better spent on education just to maintain our detention and correction facilities to protect our families from criminals.

In spite of these indisputable facts, 26 states and numerous counties and cities that have passed resolutions supporting "Read Your Bible Week" in an effort to encourage people to return to the moral absolutes contained therein, are now being challenged in court.

The American Civil Liberties Union and their liberal supporters are determined to protect us—not from criminals but from "God", claiming a separation of church and state clause that does not exist in the Constitution—that glorious standard written by men raised up by God unto that very purpose.

On July 4th, 1776, there was, signed in the city of Philadelphia, one of America's historic documents which preceded the divinely inspired Constitution—The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation, which, under God, was destined to be the cradle of freedom.

We often forget that in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright Declaration of Dependence upon Almighty God. The closing words of this great document solemnly declare "With a firm reliance on the protection of providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives—our fortunes—and our sacred honor".

The fifty-six courageous men who signed that document knew this was not just high-sounding rhetoric—and that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of struggle in a new nation. If they lost, they would face the hangman's noose as traitors.

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy or burned.

Two lost their sons in the army. One had sons captured. Fifty-six died in war from its hardships—or its bullets.

John Quincy Adams penned these words: "Posterity—you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

For years we flourished as a Christian nation. The Supreme Court, in an 1892 decision, declared: "Our laws and our institutions must be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and to this extent, civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian! "This in a religious people!"

"This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation—we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth—that *this is a Christian nation.*" *This from the Supreme Court: 1892.*

In this century, our great nation began to crumble morally.

In June of 1962 the Supreme Court, which once ruled that America was a Christian Nation, declared prayer in public schools to be unconstitutional. The Bible and God Himself, were expelled. This in spite of the fact that America's greatest leaders have shown no doubt about God's proper place in the American government!

Every session of the House and Senate begins with prayer—each house has its own Chaplain.

The Eighty-third Congress set aside a small room in the capital, just off the rotunda, for the private prayer and meditation of members of Congress. The room's focal point is a stained glass window showing George Washington kneeling in prayer. Behind him is etched these words from Psalms 16:1 "Preserve me, O God for in thee do I put my trust."

Inside the rotunda is a picture of the Pilgrims about to embark on the sister ship of the Mayflower—the Speedwell. The ship's revered chaplain, Brewster, who later join the Mayflower, has open on his lap, the Bible.

Very clear are the words, "The New Testament, according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims—IN GOD WE TRUST, GOD BE WITH US."

The phrase, "In God We Trust" appears opposite the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States. The same phrase, in large words inscribed in marble, backdrops the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the Great American eagle protecting them. Moses is included among the great lawgivers in a marble sculpture on the east front. The crier who opens each session, closes with these words: "God save the United States and the Honorable Court."

Engraved on the metal cap on top of the Washington Monument are the words: "Praise Be To God." Lining the walls of the stairwell are such biblical phrases as, "Search the Scriptures", "Holiness to the Lord", "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Numerous quotations from the scriptures can be found within the walls of the Library of Congress. One reminds each American of this responsibility to his Maker. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8) Another preserves the psalmists acknowledgement that all nature reflects the order and beauty of the Creator: "The Heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handwork." (psalm 19:1) And still another reference: "The Light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not." (John 1:5)

I, like millions of others, have stood in the Lincoln Memorial and gazed up at the statue of the great Abraham Lincoln. The sculptor who chiseled the features of Lincoln in granite seems to make Lincoln speak his own words inscribed into the walls: " * * * that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." At the opposite end, on the north wall, his second inaugural address alludes to "God", "the Bible", "Providence", "The Almighty" and "divine attributes." And then continues: "As was said three thousand years ago, and so it still must be said, 'The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

At the Jefferson Memorial on the south banks of Washington's tidal basin, Jefferson still speaks: "God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever." This is indeed an explicit warning to us. Especially to us in this day that, to allow God to be removed from this country, will surely destroy it.

A result of our lack of resolve—the once Great American Dream is turning into a spiritual nightmare. *America has rejected God in dealing with the issues of life.* When God fades from a nation's conscience, one can justify almost anything. For example:

God says: "Thou shalt not kill."

Americans have given murder a new name and now abort one and one half million babies a year. Many try to camouflage sin with new age terminology.

God calls it "Drunkenness."

We call it alcoholism—a social disease.

God calls it "Sodomy."

We call it homosexuality—gay rights—an "Alternative Lifestyle."

God calls it "Perversion."

We call it pornography—"Adult" entertainment.

God calls it "Immorality."

We call it the "New" morality.

God calls it "Cheating."

We call it abnormal social development.

With the erosion of moral absolutes Jefferson's warning should make us all shudder as each succeeding generation drifts further from the moral absolutes of the Lord.

As revealed in the scriptures and banned by the courts from our schools, the words of a great Christian reformer, Martin Luther, become prophetic. "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of Hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the work of God must become corrupt."

And on occasions when we pay tribute to and acknowledge the sacrifices of those men raised up by the Lord to *establish* and sustain our independence, we must re-dedicate ourselves to protecting and preserving those liberties and the righteous, God-fearing ideals

that have been fought and died for by patriots throughout our American history.

In two hundred and twenty-two years, Americans have fought many wars from Valley Forge to the far-flung corners of the earth. From the bloody beaches of Normandy to the island by island war in the Pacific, to the frozen mountains of the Chosin Reservoir, millions of young Americans have given their lives for the freedoms vouchsafed by our divinely-inspired Constitution . . . for this nation under God.

In all of these wars fought on the field of battle, our enemies were definable. They wore uniforms. They fought with bayonets, grenades, rifles, cannons, mortars. A far more insidious enemy faces us today and we must prepare our youth for a more hard-fought battle for survival than we have ever known!

Girded up in the Armor of Truth and Knowledge and in the strength of our families, our youth will not be fighting in trenches, foxholes or storming beaches. The enemy is amongst us and not in uniform. His weapons are the media, new age philosophies designed to deceive and destroy the moral character of our youth. Perversion, disguised as tolerance.

Their battlefield will be the city halls, the county courthouses, state legislatures and the Congress. They must be prepared and we must prepare them that they may hold high, *with new resolve*, the Title of Liberty in memory of our God, our religion and freedom and our peace and our wives and children.

In Patrick Henry's words: "The enemy is in the field. Why stand we here idle?"

May God bless us all with continued freedom. May God bless our youth with the strength and resolve to bear the burden our complacency has placed upon them.

And may God continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO WTOP'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing WTOP Radio, our local and regional news station. WTOP is celebrating its 30th anniversary today, Tuesday March 9, 1999. I am sure the Members of the House and Senate listen to and are informed by WTOP. The station has been a prime source of information of news events and a pioneer in all-news radio.

Without fail, WTOP usually gets there before we do and before anyone else does. From the mundane news of traffic and weather, to breaking news in the nation and around the world, WTOP is there for Washington, the region, and Members of the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also must say a special word of tribute to Dave McConnell, who has been with WTOP for 34 years, even before it was an all-news station. Dave is one of the best reporters in any of the media in Washington. His amazing dexterity and extraordinary range have made him a one-man class reporter and commentator capable of speaking to any and every subject. Members listen to Dave's Today On the Hill broadcasts to find out what is really happening in Congress! Dave McConnell is only one of the best of an extraordinary group of first rate radio journalists at WTOP who keep the nation's capital truly informed. I

ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to WTOP for the indispensable service the station performs as well as our congratulations for 30 years of a job very well done.

**WALNUT GROVE RETIREMENT
COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Walnut Grove Retirement Community which is celebrating its 10th anniversary of outstanding service to the elderly community of Grundy County.

On March 7, 1989, the Walnut Grove Healthcare Center opened with 97 beds available to seniors. Four years later, in 1993, Grundy County experienced a need for more beds for the elderly. Walnut Grove applied for and completed the Certificate of Need process in order to add more beds and better serve Grundy County senior citizens. This process resulted in the increase of licensed beds from 97 to 123.

On January 10, 1994, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for these 24 private suite sheltered care units. This addition is known as the Walnut Grove Villa. As these Villas have established a fine reputation, a waiting list of applicants wanting to reside in them usually exists.

In addition to the Healthcare Center and the Villa, there are duplexes included in the retirement community. These 24 cottages house 30 elderly residents for independent living.

Walnut Grove's provision of care is sensational. The rehabilitation program of Walnut Grove is Medicare certified. Furthermore, there are always special events on the holidays, along with various outing and recreational events.

Mr. Speaker, I find it appropriate that the Walnut Grove Retirement Community be given praise for its 10 years of existence. May the service Walnut Grove has provided to the people of the 11th District and the elderly community of Grundy County continue as we move into the 21st Century.

**CONGRATULATING MATTHEW
JENDIAN AND ARMEN DEVEJIAN**

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Matthew Jendian and Armen Devejian upon their ordination to rank of dea-

con for St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church. The rank of deacon requires much effort and discipline; the responsibility is heavy, and the standards are high. Both men have risen to those standards.

Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen were previously ordained together as sub-deacons in 1991, and have been serving at the Holy Altar for the past 15 years. They served on the executive committee of the St. Paul Armenian Christian Youth Organization (ACYO) Chapter, were co-editors of the ACYO California in 1987, and currently teach the high school Sunday school class.

Deacon Matthew is married to Pamela Manogian. He teaches at California State University, Fresno in the sociology department, and is campus director of the American Numanics Program. He is currently gathering data on Armenian-Americans in Central California for his Ph.D. dissertation through the University of Southern California. Deacon Matthew enrolled in his father's altar servers class at age nine, later graduated from the St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program, and has been serving at the Holy Altar for 20 years.

Deacon Armen is married to Paula Der Matoian. He is vice president of a construction and development company in Fresno, and is project manager of the New Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall which is currently under construction. In 1996, at the age of 26, he became California's youngest licensed architect. During his tenure as ACYO Central Council chairman, from 1994–1996, he helped establish the ACYO Mission Fund, the ACYO Camp Fund, and the Summer Camp ACYO Scholarship Program. Deacon Armen has been serving at the Holy Altar since 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen on their fine accomplishment of spiritual leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these men and their families a bright future and continued growth.

**PEACE CORPS ACT
AUTHORIZATION**

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 669, the Peace Corps reauthorization bill, I was pleased to vote yes on this legislation that will increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers from today's 6,700 to 10,000 over the next four

years. To achieve this modest number, H.R. 669 authorizes \$270 million for fiscal year 2000.

I do not simply support this bill because I myself was a Peace Corps volunteer. I support this bill because the demand, both internationally and domestically, is real.

In the Caucasus, Central Asia and Africa, burgeoning new democracies are crying out for Peace Corps volunteers. In Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, health volunteers are especially in need to teach sanitary living skills and show mothers how to better nourish their children with available resources. Programs in Africa chronically need more volunteers, especially in HIV/AIDS prevention and girls' education.

The recently created programs in South Africa and Jordan, having proved themselves successful, need more volunteers to expand current programs to meet country needs. Recently agreements have been reached with China, Bangladesh and Mozambique to begin Peace Corps programs. New volunteers ready to take on not only the usual Peace Corps experiences in a country and culture they are unfamiliar with, but also willing to meet the challenges of being the first Peace Corps volunteers in a country are needed.

As we have learned around the world, the best way to support a democracy is to help development at the local level. The Peace Corps is one of the most effective mechanisms for doing just that.

Unfortunately, natural disasters and humanitarian crises continue at an alarming rate, devastating countries just beginning to prosper. In these instances, the international community is quick to provide assistance to save lives, restore hope, and, in the long run, buttress democracy. The Peace Corps has developed the Crisis Corps to use language and cultural knowledge that Peace Corps volunteers possess to assist in these times of need.

An increase in Peace Corps volunteers will allow Crisis Corps volunteers to be sent for hurricane relief missions in Central America and keep open the possibility of sending volunteers elsewhere should they be needed.

Domestic demand for more Peace Corps volunteers is just as impressive. Last year, 150,000 Americans requested information about joining Peace Corps. This is an increase of approximately 40% over the last four years. In the same time frame, Peace Corps has been able to support only a 2% increase in the number of volunteers (this with a 13% decrease in headquarters staffing since 1993, and a 14% drop in support costs per volunteer from FY93 to FY98).

Americans, young and old, single and married, would like to serve their country, humanity and democracy. This is an asset we should not let go to waste. It is my sincere hope that H.R. 669 is signed into law, allowing more Americans the opportunity to participate in the Peace Corps, the hardest job they will ever love